Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a request for a function space at a digital processing system, the digital processing system containing an availability information for one or more function spaces at a plurality of remote properties and a set of pricing rules for one or more function spaces, the request including a plurality of criteria[[,]] ~~wherein one of the plurality of criteria is a first date for using the requested function space~~;

determining an availability of the requested function space based upon the availability information and one or more of the plurality of criteria; and

~~upon determining that the requested function space satisfying the one or more of the plurality of criteria is available,~~ automatically providing a real-time price quote for the requested function space based on the ~~first date~~[[;]] set of pricing rules even when it is determined that the requested function space satisfying the one or more of the plurality of criteria is unavailable.

~~receiving a second request for the function space at the digital processing system, the second request including a plurality of criteria, wherein one of the plurality of criteria of the second request is a second date for using the requested function space;~~

~~determining availability of the requested function space based on the availability information and one or more of the plurality of criteria of the second request;~~

~~upon determining that the requested function space satisfying the one or more of the plurality of criteria of the second request is available, automatically providing a second real-time price quote for the requested function space on the second date;~~

Application No.: 10/602,245

~~wherein the first and second dates are different from each other;~~

~~wherein the real-time price quote and the second real-time price quote are~~
~~different from each other.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of remote
properties are individual hotels of a hotel chain.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1 further comprising:
receiving an acceptance of the price quote for the requested function space from
~~the~~ a user; and
establishing a reservation for the requested function space.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1 further comprising:
receiving a rejection of the price quote for the requested function space from ~~the~~ a
user; and
providing alternatives to one or more of the plurality of criteria in real-time.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein establishing a reservation for
the requested function space includes allocating a function space of a specified category,
the category specified by one or more category-related criteria included in the plurality of
criteria of the request.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the category-
related criteria include one or more criteria selected from the group consisting of
attendance, event type, setup styles and area.

9.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium that provides executable instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method, the method comprising:

> receiving a request for a function space, the request including a plurality of criteria[[,]] ~~wherein one of the plurality of criteria is a first date for using the requested function space~~;

> determining an availability of the requested function space based upon availability information for one or more function spaces at a plurality of remote properties and one or more of the plurality of criteria; and

> ~~upon determining that the requested function space satisfying the one or more of the plurality of criteria is available,~~ automatically providing a real-time price quote for the requested function space based on ~~the first date~~[[;]] a set of pricing rules even when it is determined that the requested function space satisfying the one or more of the plurality of criteria is unavailable.

> ~~receiving a second request for the function, the second request including a plurality of criteria, wherein one of the plurality of criteria of the second request is a second date for using the requested function space;~~

> ~~determining availability of the requested function space based on the availability information and one or more of the plurality of criteria of the second request;~~

> ~~upon determining that the requested function space satisfying the one or more of the plurality of criteria of the second request is available, automatically providing a second real-time price quote for the requested function space on the second date;~~

> ~~wherein the first and second dates are different from each other;~~

> > ~~wherein the real-time price quote and the second real-time price quote are different from each other.~~

10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 9 wherein

the plurality of remote properties are individual hotels of a hotel chain.

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim ~~12~~ 9,
wherein the method performed by the processor further comprising:

receiving an acceptance of the price quote for the requested function space from a
~~the~~ user; and

establishing a reservation for the requested function space.

14.   (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim ~~12~~ 9,
wherein the method performed by the processor further comprising:

receiving a rejection of the price quote for the requested function space from a ~~the~~
user; and

providing alternatives to one or more of the plurality of criteria in real-time.

15.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 13 wherein

establishing a reservation for the requested function space includes allocating a function

space of a specified category, the category specified by one or more category-related

criteria included in the plurality of criteria of the request.

16.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 15

wherein the category-related criteria include one or more criteria selected from the group

consisting of attendance, event type, setup styles and area.

17.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a central digital processing system having a memory device, the memory device

having stored thereon availability information for one or more function

spaces at a plurality of remote properties and a set of pricing rules for one

or more function spaces, the central digital processing system configured

Application No.: 10/602,245

to provide ~~first and second~~ an availability determination ~~determinations~~ for a function space based upon the availability information and in response to receiving ~~first and second requests, respectivelu~~[[,]] a request for the function space[[,]] ~~wherein the first an second requests comprise first and second dates, respectively for using the requested function space, wherein the first and second dates are different from each other~~[[,]]; and[[,]]

~~upon providing the availability determination~~[[,]] wherein said central digital processing system is further configured to automatically generate ~~generating first and second real-time~~ a real-time price quote for the requested function space based on the set of pricing rules even when said availability determination by said central digital processing system indicates that the requested function space is unavailable ~~quotes the first and second dates, respectively, wherein the first and second real-time price quotes are different from each other~~.

18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the plurality of remote properties are individual hotels of a hotel chain.

20.   (Cancelled)

21.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~20~~ 17, wherein said central digital processing system is further ~~comprising~~ configured to:
    ~~receiving~~ receive an acceptance of the ~~first~~ real-time price quote for the requested function space; and
~~establishing~~ establish a reservation for the requested function space.

22.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~20~~ 17, wherein said central digital processing system is further ~~comprising~~ configured to:

    ~~receiving~~ receive a rejection of the ~~first~~ real-time price quote for the requested function space[[.]]; and

provide an alternative to said request in real-time in response to said rejection.

23.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein said central digital processing system is configured to establish ~~establishing~~ a reservation for the requested function space ~~includes~~ by allocating a function space of a specified category, the category specified by one or more category-related criteria included in the ~~first~~ request.

24.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the category-related criteria include one or more criteria selected from the group consisting of attendance, event type, setup styles and area.

Please add claims 25-30 as follows:

25.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of criteria includes criteria selected from a group of criteria consisting of date, day-part, current demand, and supplementary sales.

26.   (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the plurality of criteria includes criteria selected from a group of criteria consisting of date, day-part, current demand, and supplementary sales.

27.   (New) The system of claim 17, wherein said request includes a plurality of criteria selected from a group of criteria consisting of date, day-part, current demand, and supplementary sales.

28.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

dividing said one or more function spaces into at least one specific space and at least one category space; and

concurrently evaluating said at least one specific space and said at least one category space as part of said determining said availability of the requested function space.

29.   (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

displaying a hierarchical relationship between said at least one category space and said at least one specific space.

30.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

associating a set of factors with said one or more function spaces; and

assigning a corresponding weight to each factor in said set of factors.